

WELCOME to 4K PRESCHOOL



We're Glad You're Here

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE



*information for families of
children enrolling in 4K preschool*



4K Preschool Office • 807 East Avenue South • La Crosse

Phone: (608) 789-7006 • Fax: (608) 789-8423

www.lacrosseschools.org → PROGRAMS & SERVICES → 4K Preschool

Dr. Aaron Engel, Superintendent of Schools • aengel@lacrossesd.org

Dr. Troy Harcey, Associate Superintendent of Instruction • tharcey@lacrossesd.org

Shelley Shirel, 4K Preschool Supervisor • sshirel@lacrossesd.org • (608) 789-8942

Jen Kalis, Early Childhood/4K Program Coordinator • jkalis@lacrossesd.org • (608) 789-7621

Chong Yang, 4K Preschool Administrative Assistant • preschool@lacrossesd.org

Welcome to 4K Preschool.....	2
What to Expect in 4K Preschool.....	3
School Communication.....	3
Child Development Concerns or Questions....	3
4K Preschool Programming & Readiness.....	4
The ABC's of 4K Preschool.....	5
Spaces & Places – 4K Preschool Locations.....	7
Transportation Information.....	8
Family Engagement, Field Trips & Volunteers....	8
Health Guide for Parents.....	9



“**PLAY**
is the highest form
of research.”
-Albert Einstein



Welcome to the 4K Preschool program in the School District of La Crosse! We are so excited that your child will join us for the 2023-2024 school year! Our 4K Preschool program will provide your child with a high-quality 4-year-old preschool experience. Whether your child is enrolled in 4K Preschool within one of our school buildings or a community partner site, your child will be learning and growing through play and hands-on activities.

The School District of La Crosse 4K Preschool, along with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), points to the importance of play as an integral way for young children to learn. Meaningful learning that is child-initiated and hands-on is the way young children learn and grow. In early childhood education, the concept of play does not mean every child is doing exactly the same thing. 4K Preschool students will receive different supports, provided by knowledgeable early childhood educators, to individualize the benefits of play.

The 4K Preschool program believes that families know their child best! We look forward to partnering with you to make your child's first school experience a positive one. Family engagement is an important part of our program. Your child's teacher will send you information throughout the year on ways to volunteer, get involved, and participate in learning and fun at school.

A strong emphasis is placed on your child's social and emotional development while in our 4K Preschool program. We use the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMEELS), High Scope Curriculum (a play-based resource), and the Pyramid Model practices to guide our teaching. Your child will learn not only how to be a friend but how to recognize and manage strong emotions.

Next, you will receive information from your child's teacher that is specific to their site and program. You will also be invited to participate in an open-house before school begins. The following information is to help answer some basic questions about our 4K Preschool Program and provide some guidance about how to help your child with the transition to 4K Preschool.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. We look forward to working with your child and family this coming school year.

Play gives children a chance to practice what they are learning.

Mr Rogers





What to Expect in 4K Preschool

Your child's daily schedule will be unique depending on their location, but you can always expect that your child will experience hands-on, playful learning opportunities during their time with us. The 4K Preschool classroom is set up to be engaging and fun with different learning centers such as blocks, books, dress-up/dolls, outside play, cars and kitchen area. There will be singing, dancing, laughing and learning together.



School Communication

You will receive a communication from your school approximately 4-6 weeks before your child's 4K Preschool start date. It will have information about open house, school supplies, snacks, etc. and throughout the year, your child's teacher will give you a progress report update on how your child is learning and growing. You will also be offered a Parent-Teacher conference to talk more about your child's strengths and progress.



Developmental Screening with ASQ & ASQ:SE

Because your child's first 5 years of life are so important, we want to help you provide the best start for your child. You'll be invited to participate in the *Ages & Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition (ASQ-3)* & *Ages & Stages Questionnaire: Social Emotional (ASQ:SE)* to help provide information on your child's development. Information will come from your child's teacher with a link to the online screener and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. You will be asked to answer questions about some things your child can and cannot do. The questionnaire includes questions about your child's communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal social skills. Your child's teacher will discuss the results with you and any next steps. If you have ongoing developmental concerns about your child, you can request a more in-depth specialized developmental evaluation at any time by contacting the EC/4K Program Coordinator at 608-789-7621.





Can My Child Repeat 4K Preschool?

No, the 4K Preschool Program is a one-year experience before your child begins 5-Year-Old Kindergarten.

While we'd love to keep your child for more than one year (...let's face it, teachers get attached!), it's board policy that 4K Preschool is a “one and done” experience before 5-Year-Old Kindergarten begins. Your child will have all the foundation skills from 4K Preschool to be successful in 5K the following Year.

“Ready” for 4K Preschool?

Is your child “ready” for 4K Preschool? Here are some tips to help their 4K Preschool experience be successful:

- Play and read with your child every day! Point to pictures in a book, take a walk and talk about what you see, try new things and have fun.
- Your child will need a good night's sleep and daily routine in order to keep up with the learning fun in 4K Preschool! A regular and early bedtime routine will help your child be ready to learn and grow.
- Talk to your child a lot! Ask questions about their daily activities and get them excited for school!
- Potty Training- being independent with bathroom skills is important for preschoolers. If your child is not quite potty trained yet- that's okay! Please let your 4K Teacher know how your child is doing with potty training and what works well for your child at home.
- Want more ideas? See the “ABCs of 4K Preschool” on the next page! You can always contact your child's 4K Preschool teacher for more information and great suggestions.

“TELL me and I forget.



Teach^{me}
and I
remember.

INVOLVE^{me}
and I
LEARN.”

- Ben Franklin



the ABC's of 4K PRESCHOOL

A is for **ABC's**. → Name letter sounds in your child's environment: their name, store, eatery, road signs, etc.

B is for **Bedtime**
& **Books**.

→ Preschool-aged children need 10-12 hours of sleep per day for proper brain development. Curling up for bedtime after reading a great book is a great way to set up a routine.

C is for **Caring**.

→ We care about your child AND your family!

D is for **Diversity**.

→ La Crosse School District believes all children deserve a high-quality education.

E is for **Experiences**. → Children gain knowledge from difference experiences and exposure both at home and at school.

F is for **Feelings**.

→ Encourage your child to safely express their feelings.



G is for **GROSS**
Motor Movements.

→ Preschool children need to run, jump, climb and explore with their big muscles!

H is for **Helping Hands**.

→ Preschoolers are wonderful helpers. Give them a chance, and allow them to try.



I is for **Independence**.

→ Encourage independence with bathroom habits (toileting, wiping, & washing hands), getting ready for the day (dressing, putting on shoes, packing backpack, etc).

J is for **Jamboree!**

→ Preschool is fun; we encourage singing, dancing, exploring, and cooperative play.



K is for *Kindness*.

→ Model kind words and actions when talking to and around your child.

★ **L is for Love & Listening.**

→ Engage with your child by showing them love and listening to them.

★ **M is for Medication.** ★

→ If your child needs to take medication at school, please contact the school nurse.
Do not send in a backpack.

★ **N is for Name.**

→ Help your child recognize his or her name. We'll be working on that at school!

★ **O is for OUTSIDE.**

→ Outdoor activity is important for preschool children.

★ **P is for Purposeful PLAY.** → Preschoolers should have 60 minutes of uninterrupted, screen-free, play every day.

★ **Q is for Questions.** → Children are born ready to learn! Encourage them to ask and answer questions throughout the day.

★ **R is for Routines.**

→ Routines make children feel safe; create predictable routines for mealtime, bedtime, etc.

★ **S is for Snack.**

→ Provide healthy and nutritious snacks everyday.

★ **T is for Technology.**

→ Please monitor your child's screen time for enjoyable, educational programs and apps.

★ **U is for Understanding.**

→ Understand that every child develops at a different rate. We will meet your child where they are at.

★ **V is for Volunteer.** → There are lots of ways to volunteer in your child's school. Check with your child's teacher to find out how.

★ **W is for WORLD.** → Your child is curious about their world; expose children to many different experiences.

★ **X is for expertise.** → You are an expert on your child! If you have any questions about child development, we have services available to help.

★ **Y is for YOU!**

→ You are the most important teacher your child will have!

★ **Z is for Zipping.**

→ Practice zipping, buttoning, and fastening pants and coats at home.



 **SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL**

1800 Lakeshore Drive • (608) 789-7980

Our play-based setting will provide students with opportunities for authentic learning through social skills and hands-on experiences. Students will also learn to appreciate and care for the outdoor environment.

 **NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

1611 Kane Street • (608) 789-7970

A community school dedicated to meeting the needs of the whole child. We believe that our strength comes from forming family and community partnerships to ensure that every child will reach his or her potential.

****4K program follows the September-June traditional calendar.****

 **COULEE MONTESSORI**


1611 Kane Street • (608) 789-7970

Holistic learning, guided by the uniquely designed Montessori materials and children's own interests and passions.

 **YWCA CHILD CARE CENTER**

419 9th Street North • (608) 785-9541

The YWCA Child Center is a year-round, full-service child-care program that also serves as a 4-year-old kindergarten site. YWCA strives to provide children with the opportunity to make choices and decisions about play throughout their day. Our mission is to empower women and eliminate racism.

 **HAMILTON & SOTA 1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

1111 7th Street South • (608) 789-7695

The physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs of every student will be met by emphasizing their individual strengths, empowering them to reach their highest potential.

 **SPENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

2150 Bennett Street • (608) 789-7773

Supporting a positive school culture and building meaningful relationships with our families and community. Every Student ~ Every Day.

 **GUNDERSEN CHILD CARE CENTER**

700 Bennora Lee Court • (608) 775-4714

Sponsored corporately for the employees of Gundersen Health System, enrollment of the general public is welcome as space permits.

 **COULEE CHILDREN'S CENTER**

2935 East Avenue South • (608) 787-5572

Proudly empowering and strengthening families by focusing on healthy development and school readiness through our play-based curriculum.

NORTH WOODS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

N2541 Sablewood Road • (608) 789-7000

Developing international mindedness through inquiry as an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, with a path to the Spanish Bilingual Seal beginning in kindergarten.

EMERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2101 Campbell Road • (608) 789-7990

Helping children develop lasting social skills such as kindness, acceptance, and empathy in a play-based setting.

CONGREGATIONAL PRESCHOOL

2503 Main Street • (608) 784-3640

Offering high quality preschool programs for children ages 2½ to 5 years. Embracing small class sizes and a unique hands-on approach with the flexibility of both morning and afternoon classes and wrap-around care.

TODDLE INN PRESCHOOL

W2637 WI-33 • (608) 788-5650

Offering small class sizes with an immersive experience into the awe of the natural world, while providing developmentally appropriate opportunities to play, discover and learn that inspire a lifelong love of learning.

STATE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3900 Pammel Creek Road • (608) 789-7690

Educating children in a play-based setting to foster development of lasting social skills such as kindness, empathy, and acceptance.

HINTGEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3505 28th Street South • (608) 789-7767

The physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs of every student will be met by emphasizing their individual strengths, empowering them to reach their highest potential.

SOUTHERN BLUFFS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4010 Sunnyside Drive • (608) 789-7020

Providing hands-on experiences in a nurturing, play-based environment where children develop social skills and learn to be independent problem-solvers.



4K Transportation

The School District of La Crosse partners closely with GO RITEWAY to provide mid-day busing for students. Limited transportation is provided for preschoolers.

Transportation requests need to be submitted according to the GO RITEWAY registration timeline found on their website to ensure transportation for the first day of school. Please follow the link to register your child and for additional information:

<https://www.lacrosseschools.org/parents/transportation/>



For further questions about your student's transportation, please call the GO RITEWAY office at 608-881-6370.

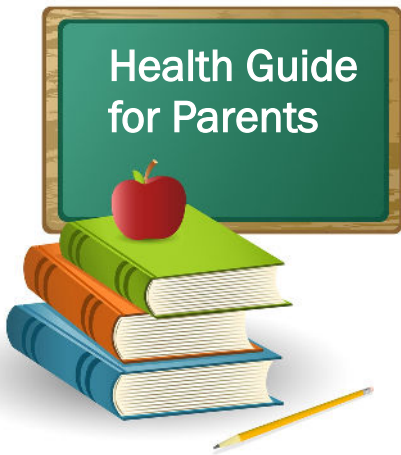
Family Engagement and Field Trips & Volunteers

Field trips and special events will be announced by your child's teacher. In addition, your child's 4K Preschool teacher may have opportunities to connect on social media and other fun family activities and events throughout the year. Stay tuned for specific information at your child's 4K Preschool site.

We love parent volunteers! If your child is enrolled in a 4K Preschool site within an elementary school, you will be asked to complete an online form before volunteering in the building; please see <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/parents/volunteer-opportunities/> and complete the parent volunteer form. If your child is attending an off-site program, such as a childcare center 4K Preschool, please connect with the Center Director or 4K Preschool teacher for more information on how to volunteer.

Let them be





Elementary Schools:

Emerson : 789-7990
Hintgen : 789-7767
Northside/MONT : 789-7970
Spence : 789-7773
State Road : 789-7690

Hamilton/SOTA I : 789-7695
North Woods International : 789-7000
Southern Bluffs : 789-7020
Summit Environmental : 789-7980

Middle Schools:

Logan Middle/SOTA II : 789-7740
Longfellow : 789-7672

High Schools:

Central : 789-7900
Logan : 789-7700
Polytechnic : 789-8940

When should your child stay home because of illness?

FEVER: greater than 100 degrees

VOMITING: return 24 hours after vomiting

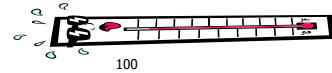
DIARRHEA: return 24 hours after diarrhea


RASH: rash that is open and draining or a rash with a fever


STREP THROAT, IMPETIGO: return after 24 hours of treatment with antibiotic

SCABIES, RINGWORM: must be treated before returning to school

CHICKEN POX: child may return to school 5-7 days after onset of rash, with all sores dry and scabbed over



 Please contact your child's school if you have any questions regarding the above.

 Please notify your child's school if your child is absent due to illness or injury.

If your child has a serious illness or injury that affects school participation, please notify your school principal or school nurse so a plan can be implemented to meet your child's needs.

ILLNESS OR INJURY AT SCHOOL: Students who become ill or injured at school will be seen in the health room by trained staff. If your child is unable to return to class, a parent will be contacted. **For your child's comfort please make arrangements to pick them up as soon as possible.**

MEDICATIONS:

Please give medications at home whenever possible. If medication is needed during the school day, the following is necessary.

Prescription Medication

- (1) A doctor's signature with written instruction.
- (2) Written consent from the parent for the school to give the medication.
- (3) Medication is in a properly labeled prescription bottle.

Non-prescription Medication

- (1) Written consent from the parent with instructions for the school to give the medication.
- (2) Medication must be in the original container.

* **Students may not carry medication at school with the exception of prescription inhalers and epinephrine auto injectors with a doctor's written permission.**

* **Parents/guardians are requested to please deliver medication to the school office.**

*School Medication/
Procedure forms are
available at your
school office, school
website or local clinic.*

REMINDER:

 **A new medication form is needed each time the medication is changed.**

 **A new medication form is needed for each school year.**



ENROLLMENT FORM AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION

It is important for us to reach you if your child is ill or injured at school. Please complete the Annual Health Update Form and enrollment form from school, listing parent’s name with work and home phone numbers, along with **two local emergency contacts**. Call your child’s school with any changes throughout the school year.

HEALTH AND SCREENING PROGRAMS

Physical Examinations:

It is recommended that Kindergarten students have physical, dental and vision examinations prior to school entrance.



Vision Screening:



School District Nurses, along with parent volunteers and the Lions Club, provide a vision **screening** program at your child’s school for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, 1, 3 and 5. Your help would be greatly appreciated—call your child’s school office if you are interested in volunteering to help with vision screening.

IMMUNIZATIONS

“IT’S THE LAW” s.252.04 Wis. Stats.

This law requires students through grade 12 to be immunized according to their age/grade by the beginning of the school year.

Immunization is a shared responsibility:

- ☛ Parents are required to have their children immunized on schedule and keep accurate records. If a student is unable to receive immunizations for medical, religious or personal conviction reasons, a waiver must be signed and given to the school.
- ☛ Schools are required to keep records and review annually the Immunization Law.
- ☛ When students do not meet the requirements of the law, parents are notified by a **legal notice**.



Helpful Hints:

Keep a copy of your child’s immunization record. Notify your child’s school each time your child receives an immunization. Call your school office if you have any questions.

WISCONSIN IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS 2023-2024

2-4 yrs	4 DTP/DTaP/DT		3 Polio	3 Hep B	1 MMR	1 Var
KG	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td		4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
1st Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td		4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
2nd Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td		4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
3rd Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td		4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
4th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td		4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
5th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td		4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
6th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td		4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
7th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td	1 Tdap	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
8th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td	1 Tdap	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
9th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td	1 Tdap	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
10th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td	1 Tdap	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
11th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td	1 Tdap	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var
12th Gr	4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td	1 Tdap	4 Polio	3 Hep B	2 MMR	2 Var